

Jaroslav Pelikan

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“If Christ is risen, nothing else matters.”

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“If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen—nothing else matters.”



# ***A LINE IN THE SAND***

**ROMANS 6:1-14**

# Romans 6

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What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

# Romans 6

<sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

# Romans 6

<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?



# Romans 6

<sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

# Romans 6

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

# Romans 6

<sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

# Romans 6

<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

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<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

# Romans 6

<sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

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<sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

# Romans 6

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.



# Romans 6

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

# Romans 6

<sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

# Romans 6

<sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.



# Context of Romans 6

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  - Sin is discussed not as an individual's sinful act, but as a cosmic power, described in personal terms

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  - Sin is discussed not as an individual's sinful act, but as a cosmic power, described in personal terms:
    - “sin exercised dominion in death” (5:21; and 6:12, 14).

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- Romans 5.12 - 8.39
  - Sin is discussed not as an individual's sinful act, but as a cosmic power, described in personal terms:
    - “Sin, seizing an opportunity . . . , deceived me and through it killed me” (7:11).



# Context of Romans 6

- Romans 5.12 - 8.39
  - Sin is discussed not as an individual's sinful act, but as a cosmic power, described in personal terms:
    - Sin and death take people captive with their power and authority (7.23-24).

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  - Sin is discussed not as an individual's sinful act, but as a cosmic power
  - The solution discussed in this section is more about God's cosmic response in Christ rather than individual believer's faith.

# Context of Romans 6

- Christ who brings universal benefits (5:15-17).
- Romans 8 (especially 8:18-30), Paul explains God's cosmic intervention and the transformation of all creation.
- Romans 6-7 discusses the individual more.

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- <sup>20</sup> . . . But where sin increased, grace increased all the more

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# Romans 6

- Homer: to arouse from sleep
- To recall the dead to life
- To cause to rise from a seat, bed, from reclining or lying
- To produce, cause to appear
- To cause to be born
- To erect a building

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- Buried with him (6.4)
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- Crucified with him (6.6)
- Set free by him (6.6-7)
- Alive to God in him (6.11)



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**ROMANS 6:1-14**

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- God has made a line in the sand.
- You cannot live on this side of the womb with fluid in your lungs; you cannot live on that side of the tomb with the water of sin and death in your spiritual lungs.
- Only those who have had their sin dislodged by being united with the grace of Christ can live in the pure air of God's light, love, and life.

# What to Do?

- Take a deep breath
  - Literally and figuratively

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  - Whether 1<sup>st</sup> or 672,767,999 breaths
- Do something with that breath (rejoice and give thanks)

# What to Do?

- Take a deep breath
- Go on a respirator
  - We all need some help breathing.  
Prayerfully find some accountability.

# What to Do?

- Take a deep breath
- Go on a respirator
- Learn CPR
  - You are surrounded by people who have spiritual pneumonia. What are you going to do about it?



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